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# ABER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED CWMABER

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### MINUTES OF THE ABOVE COUNCIL HELD AT SENGHENYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

#### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson: D. Daniels

Councillors: D. Berry, C. Bishop, P. Cole, R. Gater, E.P. Prendergast, T. Richards, J. Roberts, M. Stretch, and J. Taylor.

Clerks: S. Hughes and J. Lloyd

#### **19/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Tolley.

#### **20/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors and Officers were reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests(s) in respect of any item of business on this Agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors, Officers and Clerk.

Declarations of interest were made during the course of the meeting and are minuted under the relevant item.

#### **21/2022 PUBLIC MATTERS**

There were no public matters.

#### **22/2022 POLICE MATTERS**

Sergeant J. Pursey (Gwent Police), attended the meeting and reported on the following matters:

- (i) There had been fewer calls in relation to bin fires in the area this month and there had been one call for a door being kicked on Commercial Street.
- (ii) There hadn't been any calls for off-road bikes in the Aber Valley in the last 28 days. Police aware that they are still around and have started their off-road bike operations this weekend. Members were reminded to inform the Police about any intel of the whereabouts of bikes and riders, etc.

- (iii) There was damage to Sam's Grill House front window, those responsible have been dealt with.
- (iv) Damage to a taxi whilst picking up school children, driver had his car door kicked and light broken. It was explained that this was aimed at the children in the car rather than the driver himself.
- (v) Police are aware that there is a concern for the fires being set on the allotment grounds behind the Four Terraces. Environmental Health are dealing with, and the RSPCA are involved regarding the welfare of the animals. Members were advised that this wasn't a Police matter at the moment.
- (vi) There had been no dwelling or vehicle break ins.
- (vii) Police had met with head teacher of Cwmaber Juniors, regarding concern for the grass being turned up outside the school by parents parking on it. Police have spoken to Cllr. Roberts to see if anything could be put in place to protect it, such as bollards or boulders.
- (viii) SYDIC is open as normal on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and hopefully will assist to keep the ASB levels down.
- (ix) An update was provided on the incident that took place at Sonia's Plaice.

Members reported the following Police matters:

- (a) Police patrols were requested to start later in the evenings as the evenings were becoming lighter, youths were not coming out until around 8pm. Members were advised that ASB patrols were usually conducted by CSOs who may work on restricted hours.
- (b) Concerns were raised about young persons on Senghenydd Square but no reports of ASB.
- (c) It was observed that incidents appeared to have reduced in the Aber Valley.

**23/2022**

**TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

The minutes of the Community Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were approved as a true record.

**(1) Current Financial Situation**

- (a) Members received the monthly statement of accounts and an update on the current financial situation. Members discussed and approved the Community Council's accounts.

**(2) Income**

- (a) It was noted that no income had been received.

**(3) Expenditure**

- (a) Members approved the following expenditure:

- (i) Post Office Ltd - £12.75 (for the purchase of 15 first class stamps - re-imburement to the Clerk).

- (b) Members noted the following expenditure:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council - £786.59 (Lenovo laptop)
- (ii) Fusion Electrics - £90.00 (Installation of defibrillator at The Windsor Hotel).
- (iii) Payroll – Month 11. Members approved the National Salary Award 2021/22 for the Clerk, to be implemented as soon as possible.

**(4) Applications for Financial Assistance**

Councillor D. Berry, Councillor R. Gater, Councillor J. Roberts and Councillor M. Stretch, declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the discussion.

- (a) Members considered the following application for financial assistance and resolved as follows:

- (i) Senghenydd Youth Drop-In Centre - £627

Councillor D. Berry declared an interest in the following application and took no part in the discussion.

- (b) Members considered the following application for financial assistance and resolved as follows:

- (ii) Nant-y-Parc Primary School – £350

**(5) Correspondence**

(a) One Voice Wales: Membership of One Voice Wales 2022/23

Members received an email from One Voice Wales inviting Aber Valley Community Council to renew its membership to join One Voice Wales from April 2022. The membership fee for 2022/23 is £1045. It was agreed that the Community Council will join One Voice Wales from April 2022.

(b) Society of Local Council Clerks: Membership Renewal 2022

Members were advised that the Clerk's Membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks is due for renewal. The annual subscription fee is £134 and the joining fee for a new Clerk is £10. It was agreed that the annual subscription to be renewed.

(c) Parliamentary Boundary Review – Caerphilly Constituency

Members received a letter from Wayne David, Labour MP for Caerphilly, together with a petition, in relation to the proposed changes to the southern part of the current Caerphilly constituency. It was requested that the petition be presented to the Community Council for the Council to sign as a whole and individual Councillors to sign. It was agreed that the Community Council would make a representation to the Boundary Commission against the proposals and the petition was made available for Councillors to sign.

**(6) A.O.B**

(a) Disposal of confidential waste

Members approved the purchase of confidential waste bags from Elite Paper Solutions for the disposal of Community Council financial information, in line with the data retention policy.

(b) Christmas lighting 2022/23

The Christmas lighting for the 2022 festive period was discussed and Members were informed that there are 2 faulty figurines that need to be replaced. It was noted that there is money set aside in the budget for new and/or additional Christmas lighting. It was agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Elsbury Access Platforms and Councillors, to discuss the provision of new and additional Christmas lighting, for consideration at a full Community Council meeting.

(c) Financial Administration

Members discussed the current financial situation and approved for the remaining balance of the following budget areas to be carried forward from the 2021/22 financial year to the 2022/23 financial year for projects that have not been completed and for invoices that will not be processed before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Audit  
Election Costs  
Christmas Lighting  
Special Projects  
Forward Work Programme

**(7) Planning Applications**

Councillor J. Taylor took no part in the discussions.

The Community Council noted the following planning applications:

- (a) Case Ref.21/1204/CLPU Site Area:103m<sup>2</sup>  
Location:166 Caerphilly Road Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4FX  
Proposal: Obtain a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed roof alterations to incorporate dormer loft conversion.
- (b) Case Ref. 22/0097/FULL Site Area: 154m<sup>2</sup>  
Location: 11 Upper Brynhyfyd Terrace Senghenydd Caerphilly CF83 4GL  
Proposal: Erect two storey rear extension.

**25/2022 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The Chair advised Members that, together with the Vice Chair, it was proposed to retain the employment of Sharon Hughes (Clerk) for 16 hours a month until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, in order to complete the financial administration for 2021/22 and prepare for the internal and external audit of Community Council accounts. This was unanimously agreed.

**26/2022 TOILETS ON ABERTRIDWR PARK**

Following a discussion Members agreed for Caerphilly County Borough Council to open, close, and clean the toilets in Abertridwr Park from 1st April to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, with a proviso that the Community Council can hold 2 sets of keys, one of which will be given to Aber Valley Football Club. Delegated powers were given to the Chair and Vice Chair whether to proceed if the proviso in relation to the allocation of keys is refused by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

**27/2022 MEMBERS MATTERS**

Members reported on the following matters:

- (i) It was requested that the Community Safety Warden, Margaret Reed be invited to attend future Aber Valley Community Council meetings. Members asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.
- (ii) Members discussed potential areas and the allocation of land owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council for the possibility of planting up to 100 trees. It was agreed for this item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- (iii) Members discussed the request for additional benches in Senghenydd Park, following the last meeting. Members asked the Clerk to send a further email to chase this up.

- (iv) Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cleansing department, to find out when the litter picker for Abertridwr will be replaced.
- (v) Members asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the poor condition of the children's play equipment in Senghenydd Park.
- (vi) Members discussed the provision of benches along the Abertridwr and Senghenydd cycle track behind the Workmen's Hall and requested this to be set as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- (vii) A concern was raised regarding the wall at St. Annes Gardens, Members were informed that it was 'bulging' and considered to be unsafe. Members discussed the monitoring that was currently in place and asked the Clerk to contact Caerphilly County Borough Council for an update on the current situation and findings.
- (viii) It was noted that Caerphilly County Borough Council had placed the Spring flowers on the cenotaph in Senghenydd. It was agreed that the key for the gate on the cenotaph would be kept with Councillor M. Stretch.
- (ix) Members agreed for Councillors M. Stretch and C. Bishop to monitor the 3 Community Council defibrillators in the Aber Valley in liaison with the Clerk. Members raised concern regarding the damaged defibrillator cabinet located on Abertridwr Community Centre and were advised that the Clerk is awaiting costs for a replacement cabinet from Calon Hearts. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase this up as a matter of urgency.
- (x) Members referred to the 'dog walking' park on the old bowling green in Abertridwr park and it was noted that a key code is required to access this area. Members discussed ways in which this code can be obtained by residents. Members were also advised that a service request had been sent to Caerphilly County Borough Council to repair the fence.
- (xi) Members were advised that the parking issues at the bottom of King Street in Abertridwr had been addressed by Caerphilly County Borough Council, Highways department, who had confirmed that due to the unusual layout, the area would benefit from parking restrictions.
- (xii) Members discussed the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the potential events that may be held in celebration.

**28/2022**

**DATE OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**  
**Aber Valley Community Council**